

VICTORY CORPS AT WAR

V Corps (Rear)



In the summer of 2005, members of the 3rd Corps Support Command (Continental U.S. Augmentation) – the Army reserve augmentation unit for V Corps’ 3rd COSCOM – began mobilizing at Fort Des Moines, Iowa to support their active-Army counterparts and to provide the the staff of the V Corps headquarters’ rear detachment command group. A dozen senior members of 3rd COSCOM (CA) formed that rear command group, with a mission to keep those V Corps elements remaining in Germany running while the corps was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The goal of the V Corps (Rear) staff was to maintain operations in Germany and make sure all the needs of the Soldiers, family members and civilian employees there were met so that the corps’ deployed Soldiers could focus on the mission at hand in Iraq.

At the same time, as reservists, the Soldiers of the rear

command had to keep up with their own stateside families, civilian careers and reserve commitments. The rear command group was responsible for an array of missions, from staff tasks such as managing the corps’ operational, supply, transportation, budgeting, communications, legal and personnel needs, to helping families whose sponsors were in combat thousands of miles away deal with issues ranging from registering cars to facing with the emotional stresses of a long-term combat deployment, separation, and eventual reunion.

Furthermore, the rear command staff had to carry out their command in sync with the deployed contingents of V Corps to ensure that when the deployed command returned they could pick up where they left off, and continue to march.

The rear staff also had the pleasant duty of welcoming home the thousands of V Corps Soldiers from Iraq. ■

